

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A device for stacking flat,  
flexible postal items in a stacking compartment in an upright  
position, comprising:

a stacking roller positionable in proximity of the stacking  
compartment;

a covered belt system configured to feed the postal items  
consecutively to the stacking roller, wherein the belt system  
has a first belt and a second belt;

a deflection roller ~~arranged~~ disposed on an axis and  
configured to deflect the first belt from the second belt so  
that the second belt ~~continuous~~ continues to transport a  
postal item to the stacking roller;

a ~~first~~ profile roller arranged on the deflection roller and having a predetermined roller length, wherein the ~~first~~ profile roller includes a ~~number~~ plurality of diameter taperings over ~~its roller~~ a length thereof; and

deflectable pressure means ~~arranged~~ disposed to press the postal items into the diameter taperings of the first profile roller to reduce ~~[[a]]~~ free flexible lengths of ~~[[a]]~~ the postal items.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The device of claim 5, wherein the taperings of the ~~first~~ profile roller are distributed over the roller length so that upper edges of the postal items of a permitted item format do not protrude beyond a defined maximum dimension so that an opening of a postal item is avoided above a highest tapering covered by the postal item.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The device of claim 5, wherein the deflectable pressure means include deflectable pressure rollers, which can be pressed with spring pressure against the taperings of the ~~first~~ profile roller, and wherein the pressure rollers have smaller diameters than the taperings of the ~~first~~ profile roller.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The device of claim 5, wherein the deflectable pressure means include a ~~second profile~~ profiled pressure roller having a profile that corresponds to a profile of the ~~first~~ profile roller, wherein the ~~second profile~~ profiled pressure roller is ~~arranged~~ disposed such that ~~its~~ diameter taperings thereof are located at heights of untapered sections of the ~~first~~ profile roller.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The device of claim 5, wherein a pressure force of the deflectable pressure means is selected to avoid damaging stiff postal items by deforming them.

Claim 10 (new): The device of claim 5, wherein each of the taperings extend in a circumferential direction about the profile roller.

Claim 11 (new): The device of claim 5, wherein the deflectable pressure means include spring-biased deflectable pressure rollers, each of the taperings having a respective one of the spring-biased deflectable rollers disposed opposite thereto.